

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 24 No. 5

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Whole No. 284

BOYS, MEET DEWEY MILLER

By Charlie Duprez

Most of ye Brotherhood I'm sure have read my article in the September 1953 issue of Roundup about Broncho Charlie, last of the old Pony Express Riders. In this article I included my first letter received from his son Dewey to whom I had written for the purpose of verifying a few items about his famous Dad.

This letter from Dewey was followed by many others until cordial invitations were extended to my wife and myself to pay him and his wife a visit at Glens Falls, N. Y. This finally was accomplished, not one visit, but three. On the first visit, also the second, we were so swamped with hospitality, especially in the food line, making such a fuss over the likes of me, or possibly twas my wife Claire, that on the third visit we only let them know on arrival. This did not help much as they have enough food stored away to supply an army, and I don't mean a small army. So fellers, when you're really good and hungry, just set sail for Dewey's Ranch and no matter what your favorite dish is—they have it.

Dewey's main business is surveying with photography as a side line. He has surveyed most of the territory within a hundred miles, possibly more around Glens Falls. This in all sorts of weather, be it hot, cold, windy, wet or dry. His work often keeps him away from home for days, sometimes weeks. What a wonderful job for many husbands at a loss for an alibi why they didn't get home.

Broncho Charlie as you may have



read in your papers died Jan. 15th, 1955 at the age of 105. Now let me see some of you so-called old timers top that—I won't be around to see it. He was buried at Glens Falls where many notables and close friends gathered at his last resting place.

Naturally all his Dad's possessions were sent on to Dewey and among them were prized items, letters received from prominent notables such as President Eisenhower, the former President Truman, Gov. Dewey, etc.

sent to Charlie on his 100th birthday.

In the rear of Dewey's home there is a small building devoted entirely to a display of the many mementoes gathered by his Dad. I was especially impressed by the wonderful wood carvings, all done by hand with an ordinary pen knife. Many facial figures such as one might see on a totem pole. Really excellent work.

During my conversation with Dewey, of course the subject so dear to your hearts came up, namely, dime novels. He read lots of them years ago, but never started a collection. He also related an item about one of his Dad's visits Charlie started to read one of these modern Western tales. He would read a while, then suddenly jump up, throw the book on the floor, stomp around, using a few choice cuss words to the effect that the West never was like that. No doubt he was quite justified as these modern writers of Western tales sure do lay it on.

Dewey was born in Glens Falls, October 18, 1898. He served in World War I and II. In the First he served on the Mexican border in 1916, then to France, Belgium and England.

From the 1st World War he was finally shipped back to the U. S. as a patient being badly gassed in France with mustard gas. The gas caused blindness for 31 days and he was given the pleasant news by the doctors that he had perhaps five

years to live. Being the son of Broncho Charlie that was just a lot of buswa to him proven by his still being able to get into the next war. The Purple Heart and Silver Star medals he received before being gassed.

Two and a half years in the second war, but in this he didn't even get a leather one. So you see my friends our new member has quite a background.

In conclusion I would just like to add, if any of you brothers ever met a nicer guy, I'd like to know about it, and if you don't believe me, ask his wife Betty.

INTERESTING DIME NOVEL FACTS

By Howard B. Silsbee

The first Beadles Dime Novels were by very good authors and for adults.

Munro was once a menial worker for Beadle.

There was no sex stuff in any dime novels. Dime novel heroes were too busy to even sleep alone.

Most heroes were teetotalers and didn't even smoke or swear.

A good many heroes of dime novel series started as serials in weekly story papers; Nick Carter in New York Weekly, Old Sleuth in Fireside Companion, Old Cap Collier in Family Story Paper, etc.

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NEWSY NEWS

By Ralph F. Cummings
Fisherville, Mass.

Beny Tighe has gone down south for the remaining months of this winter. Must be a great place down there.

Lou Kohrt's wife had a serious operation last August, and last I knew she was still suffering from the effects of it, but here's hoping she is feeling fine now, although I know it takes time, so let's all wish her the very best of everything.

Don Steinhauer came as a surprise visitor Feb. 6th at around noon, and left a little after 3 p.m., as he wanted to get going before the road got too icy. Don is one swell fellow.

Anyone having any old Custer items, get in touch with Harry B. McConnell, Cadiz, Ohio.

Heard from Harry L. Weatherbee up in Springhill, N. S., Canada. He's planning on a trip to New England if things percolate all OK and we hope it does.

Roy B. Van Deveier was on the sick list during the month of December, and was in the hospital Dec. 23rd to the 31st. He is a lot better now. Both Mr. and Mrs. Van Devier collect post cards, views, so if you have any, get in touch with them, address is 95 W. So. St., Akron 11, Ohio.

Bob Smeltzer has been very sick since before Christmas, but is a little better now—a number of fellows sent for book lists, so as soon as he is able to, he'll make them out, for he is very weak yet.

George Sahr says way back in the days when he lived in Chicago before he ever knew of the Brotherhood boys, he bought his first Frank Reade Library, and read the lists in the back, of Boys Star Library, and always wished he could get them some where, so at last he is getting some from Ralph Smith, so at long last his dream has come true.

Joseph Krajic says if any one goes through Canton, Ohio, to be sure to stop in to see Joe at the First Methodist Church, and he'll be very glad

to show you around, and talk over old novels, etc. He says President William McKinley worshiped there, also McKinley's monument. Joe has been custodian in that church for 14 months now.

Wallace H. Waldrop writes that his 10 year old son spotted a fine article in Street & Smith's Football Yearbook for 1955, of which it has a full page spread of Tip Top #45, with a full page article on the Frank Merriwell Stories, along with other books and authors of the time. His young son goes in for articles on sports.

Ralph P. Smith and Carl Linville say the "American Heritage Magazine" for February has a fine article on old novels in it. Several pages long, and a full page, full color of a small Tip Top, and about 7 or 8 others in full color. This is a \$2.95 magazine, \$12.00 a year, so it should be good, and it is good too.

Bill Claggett has been laid up with the flu for a week or two but is beginning to feel much better.

Remember Wm. M. Kreling of San Francisco, Calif., who died some years ago? Sure you do, well, his son has joined up with us.

Ray Mengar says, to think of the old days, it was 40 years ago, when he was pulling a sled around in his kid days. It makes him smile when he can relax and think of those days. Guess I'll have to try the same medicine.

Roy Phelps sure got a good tanning in the old days when his folks caught him reading Young Wild West.

Bill McCafferty says we all should send to the "News From Home," Kenneth H. Dunshee, editor, 59 Maiden Lane, New York 8, N. Y. for a copy of "News From Home," Winter No. for 1955. There is a fine article on Pluck & Luck, Jack Wrights, Frank Reades, etc. in it. Better send a 3c stamp as the maazine is free.

Bob Frye, 895 Morgan Ave., Schenectady 9, N. Y., has just lost his oldest brother about the middle of March, so if any one will send a card to Bob, I'm sure it might help to

cheer him up, for he needs it, for if I'm not mistaken he lost a younger brother a year or so ago. We all send our sympathy to you through these columns, Bob.

Capt. Frank C. Acker, U.S.N., is back on the high seas once more, he now has his own ship, the U. S. S. *Monrovia*, F.P.O. New York, N. Y. in case anyone wishes to write to him. So Frank we'll all keep our fingers crossed until you get back on dry land again.

Just received word that Carl Linville, 972 Windsor St., Cincinnati 6, Ohio, expects to enter the hospital, soon as they get a bed for him, for an operation, so we're all looking for your recovery Pard. Let's hope you'll be back home in no time, feeling like a new man.

Remember Harry T. Cook, 431 No. Braddock St., Winchester, Va. that used to advertise quite a little in the Roundup. Got a letter that he had died March 7th, this year, in the Veterans Hospital in Martinsburg, W. Va. We all send our sympathy to his wife for her great loss.

Just received word that the Pag-eant Book Co., 59 Fourth Ave., New York 3, N. Y. in bringing out a book on "Quantrill and the Border Wars" and written by Homer Croy, by May 1st, price \$7.50—550 pages, 55 illustrations, 7 maps and plans, cloth bd., size 6 x 9. Frank James and his brother Jesse and the Youngers, are also in this book.

Sure is a very interesting book to be, I'm sure, makes my mouth water.

Don Learnard thinks we should write more news of the members than we do, and I'm sure he is right, many members never even see their name even mentioned in this column and I'm sure they would love to see it, so will try to see what I can do, as Don says like last summer when Kenneth Daggett was down to his place, and made a play room for Don and his friends, and they he came out to spend the day with Eli Messier and myself, and we fell over each other, trying to show them our treasures and what not.

Mrs. Robert Ford had a splendid display of dime novels and old boy's books in the Warner Library at Tarrytown, New York during February.

Denis R. Rogers is recovering from a siege in the hospital. We all wish him a pleasant convalescence.

Harry A. Weill says "The Civil War in Dime Novels" by J. Edward Leithead in the August Roundup, was found to be of absorbing interest, and while he would engage in a detailed analysis, time required is not at his disposal.

He says we list Norman L. Munro as having serialized Sherman's Young Scout, or Marching Through Georgia in "his" paper No. 181. Judging from the serial number this would be in 1891 and he did not subscribe for Golden Hours until the following year. Subscribe is not used in the literal sense for we were allowed 5¢ per week provided we had a good school report and be careful how you spend it, and he recalls with amusement, how, when his parents disapproved of the young reading Dime Novels for fear of the deleterious effect they would have (the converse happens to be the truth as they developed character and did not impair it) and his mother refused to provide the wherewith, Grandma said in her quaint German way, "Now, you know Harry, Mama cannot afford 5 cents per week." What a contrast with today when kids have their own theatre and card parties and go on wild jaunts! "Them wuz the days" when a dollar has 150 cents purchasing value and would that they were back again. People were more contented and happy and there were no strikes or other economic upheavals; there was, of course, the strike at the steel mills in Homestead, Pa. in which many lives were lost, and the panic of 1893. (Family Story Paper) *Hard Times*, or the *Darkest Hour Before Dawn*. (They, however, were merely incidental; the old times were better, and please don't contradict him.) Note. Harry intends to draw up a compilation of events that have occurred from childhood or of which he

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Ralph P. Smith

Box 985

Lawrence, Mass.

has recollection. This will include the Great Blizzard of 1888, the Johnstown Flood of 1889, the World's Columbian celebration of 1893 in which a 3-day Parade was held, William Jennings Bryan's "Cross of Gold" speech in Chicago in 1896 which won him the democratic presidential nomination, the Spanish-American War and the triumphant return of Admiral Dewey which was celebrated with a day-long parade, the Assassination of President McKinley at the Pan-American World's Fair held in Buffalo in 1901. These are a few of the earlier high lights which will be brought up to date in the article which he hopes will be published; he also will have beheld every President from Benjamin Harrison on, and this will be the subject of another contribution the title of which may be "Parade of the Presidents". But coming back to the original theme—There was another story by John de Morgan dealing with a period of the Civil War entitled "Work and Win", a tale of the campaign in the Shenandoah Valley, which followed at a later date, probably 1893 or '94. When he visited Robert H. Smeltzer of Philadelphia some years ago, he had the complete file of Golden Hours, and if you communicate with Bob, he may be able to supply additional information Harris Irving Hancock also wrote several stories dealing with epochs in which the United States was a belligerent, but do not recall any about the war between the states, as the South euphemistically terms it.

EXCHANGE COLUMN

Wanted: #206 or 1007 Pluck and Luck. Will exchange other Pluck and Luck for it or will pay cash. Howard J. Fahrner, 789 St. Paul St., Rochester 5, N. Y.

Wanted: Pluck and Luck #21 and

28. Uncommon books, etc. by L. Frank Baum. Mrs. Robert Ford, 43 Bedford Road, N. Tarrytown, N. Y.

Will swap for 2 perfect \$1.00 dime novels, Alexandre Dumas complete short stories; brand-new (deLuxe) in green and gold binding; 10 vols. in one book of 1003 pages. Robert H. Smeltzer, 3432 No. Bodine St., Philadelphia, Pa.

For sale or trade, Alger and Henty books and a few Merriwells. Walter E. Brown, 511 9th St., Altoona, Pa.

For Sale: Set of Merriwells #1 to 245. Includes some Burt L. Standish Libraries and Merriwell Libraries. All in fine condition. \$122. Jack R. Schorr, 11572 So. Cypress St., Orange, Calif.

Wanted: Log Cabin Liby #16, 79, 97 Morrison's Sensational Series #3, Nugget #140, 149, New York Detective #674, 679, Nick Carter Weekly #33, 37, 286, 307, 310, George French, 7 Leo Terrace, Bloomfield, N. J.

For Sale—Bound volumes of New York Weekly, 1868 up, three years in one volume. What's offered. Lou Kohrt, 3749 Robinhood, Houston 5, Texas.

Wanted—Wild West Weekly #147, 154, 166, 262, 274, 431, 445, 450. Buffalo Bill Stories #313, 314, 231. Liberty Boys #552, 562, 539. Work and Win #674, Don Leonard, 154 Belmont St., Weymouth 88, Mass.

For Sale—Happy Hours Magazine #1, 2, 4, 7, 10, 22, 24, 28. Ralph F. Cummings, Fisherville, Mass.

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RALPH F. CUMMINGS

Fisherville, Mass.